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insignificant compared with the value of the cereal crops, especially since the immune Japanese variety (*Berberis thunbergii*) is displacing the common variety in popular favor,

Therefore, be it *Resolved*, that the War Emergency Board of American Plant Pathologists do hereby endorse and support the efforts to eradicate the common barberry in that region.

G. R. LYMAN,  
*Secretary*

#### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS THE YALE MEDICAL SCHOOL

PRESIDENT ARTHUR HADLEY, of Yale University, announced on February 22 to Yale men who had returned for alumni university day that the Yale Medical School, for the first time in the 104 years of its existence, possessed an endowment sufficient to insure its perpetuation and establish it in the fore rank of American medical schools.

Since June, 1914, as reported in the New York *Tribune*, the resources of the school of medicine have been increased by \$2,568,812.55. This sum is exclusive of \$266,075 donated for the exclusive use of the Yale Mobile Military Hospital in France.

The gifts to the school of medicine include \$125,000 for the Anthony N. Brady Memorial Laboratory and an additional pledge of \$500,000 for endowment from the Brady family, provided a total of \$2,000,000 more was obtained.

Toward this \$2,000,000 the General Education Board had promised the last \$500,000. The Lauder family have given \$400,000, the late Charles W. Harkness \$100,000, and numerous other contributions had brought the total sum above the amount needed.

Five years ago it seemed probable that the Yale medical school would cease to exist. Despite the fact that it was then just ready to celebrate its centennial, its total endowment was less than \$400,000, a sum insufficient to provide income to pay the salaries of professors.

The question of the continuance or discontinuance of the medical school was placed in the hands of men interested in Yale University. A committee consisting of the late

Dr. Lewis A. Stimson, Dr. D. Bryson Delavan, Dr. William B. Coley, Dr. Joseph A. Blake and Dr. Walter James was asked to confer on ways and means with President Hadley, Dean Blumer, of the medical school, and three members of the Yale corporation.

The status of the school itself was first taken into consideration. In the face of many difficulties it had maintained so high a standard that it was ranked "Plus A," the highest class, by the American Medical Association. If the school was to continue, the conferees decided, first, it must maintain the same standards it had set. Most important, if this was to be done, was an affiliation with a hospital for teaching purposes. A second consideration insisted upon by the Yale corporation was that the mere question of pride on behalf of the university should not impel the continuance of the school. There must be a real need for it, recognized by the medical profession at large, or else it would be discontinued. This need was found to exist. The generosity of the family of Anthony N. Brady made the affiliation with the New Haven Hospital possible.

#### FARM PRODUCTS OF THE UNITED STATES

THE following statement pertaining to the crop achievements of 1917 and indicating what is possible in 1918 is authorized by Secretary of Agriculture Houston:

The production of food crops and of animal products is always a matter of great interest to all the people of the nation. At this particular time it is of especial interest and concern. Statistics regarding the acreages and yields of important food crops planted during the year 1917 have been available in the Department of Agriculture for some time and have been made public. The recent report of the Bureau of Crop Estimates on the number of live stock on farms and ranges, however, makes it possible now to exhibit a summary of the principal results of the farmers' operations for the year.

Naturally, when the nation entered the war on April 6, 1917, there was much confusion and apprehension as to the possibility of in-

creasing or even of maintaining agricultural production. There was special concern as to the sufficiency of the supply of labor that would be available for farming operations and much apprehension was manifested over the disturbance of the supply as the result of industrial demands and the drafting or volunteering of men for service in the army and navy. As a matter of fact, there was no little disturbance and in some sections the situation was especially acute. There were other difficulties confronting the farmers, including those of securing fertilizer and machinery in sufficient quantities at a reasonable cost.

Notwithstanding all the difficulties, however, the farmers, patriotically responding to the appeals to them and influenced by the prevailing prices, labored energetically to meet the needs of this nation for food and also those of the friendly nations in Europe. They planted the largest acreage in the history of the country, produced and harvested record crops of most products except wheat, and succeeded in increasing the number of live-stock, including not only work animals, but meat and milk animals.

The farmers of the nation planted during 1917, an acreage of 246,275,000 of the leading food crops (winter wheat, spring wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, rice, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes), which was 23,038,000 acres (10 per cent.) greater than the acreage in 1916, and 32,339,000 (15 per cent.) greater than the average for the 5 years preceding the outbreak of the European War.

The farmers not only planted these acreages, but they harvested record crops of corn, oats, barley, buckwheat, and Irish and sweet potatoes. The total production of these products and of spring wheat and rice was 5,771,928,000 bushels, or 1,204,659,000 bushels (26 per cent.) more than in 1916, and 1,002,442,000 (21 per cent.) more than the average for the 5-year period (1910-1914). Winter wheat and rye are omitted from this comparison because the 1917 harvests of these crops were from sowings made in the fall of 1916, before the United States entered the war. It

should be borne in mind in this connection that the percentage of soft corn this year was very much higher than usual, and also that the aggregate crop of spring and winter wheat harvested in 1917 was short.

During the first half of 1917 there was particular apprehension lest the number of live stock should be decreased. As a matter of fact, owing to the greater abundance of feed-stuffs that the large crops of the year made available and the prevailing prices, there was revealed a most gratifying increase in the principal classes of live stock—an increase in the number of horses during the year of 353,000, or 1.7 per cent.; of mules, 101,000, or 2.1 per cent.; of milch cows, 390,000, or 1.7 per cent.; of other cattle, 1,857,000, or 4.5 per cent.; of sheep, 1,284,000, or 2.7 per cent., and of swine, 3,871,000, or 5.7 per cent.

The total estimated value of all farm products, including animals and animal products, for 1917 is given as \$19,443,849,381, as against \$13,406,364,011 for 1916, and \$9,388,765,779 for the five-year average (1910-1914). These valuations are based upon prices received by producers, which are applied to the total output regardless of whether the products are consumed on the farms or sold.

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